

*/* In claim 6, line 1, please delete "or 2".

*/* In claim 7, line 1, please delete "or 2".

*/* In claim 8, line 1, please delete "or 2".

*/* In claim 9, line 1, please delete "or 2".

*/* In claim 9, line 2, please delete "rays;" and replace with --rays,--.

Please enter new claims 23- 31:

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23. A method according to claim 2, wherein each of said plurality of particles is hydrophilic and comprises said detectable marker encased in from 2 to 10 layers of graphitic carbon.
24. A method according to claim 2, wherein the carrier is an aqueous medium or solution.
25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the aqueous medium or solution is 5% glucose in water.
26. A method according to claim 2, wherein each of said discrete particles has a cross-section of from about 5nm to about 30nm.
27. A method according to claim 2, wherein said reagent is administered in an amount such that the dose comprises about 100 ng or less of said particles.
28. A method according to claim 2, wherein said detectable marker is detectable by radiochemical techniques, magnetic resonance imaging or is optically detectable.